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Unemployed Youth Obtains Professions



Photo: Community Development Initiative

June 15, 2007, was the last day of the fifth learning course for unemployed youth in the community of Halmion. Sixteen graduates from the ages of 15 to 17 who have just mastered electro-gas welding profession at the Master-Apprentice Program, successfully passed exams, and received Category III status in electro-gas welding. At the exam, graduates not only showed good knowledge of theory but also demonstrated articles made with their own hands.

In this remote Kyrgyzstan district stone's through from Uzbekistan, most of the youth work in gardens and fields. Due to the low living standards, secondary and higher education have become unavailable for most Halmion youth. Many go to Russia as soon as they graduate high school. Since youth do not have professional technical skills, they are not in demand for neither foreign nor local labor markets.

Six-hundred unemployed youth will acquire professional technical skills demanded by the market through the USAID-funded Collaborative Development Initiative (CDI) Master-Apprentice program. Mercy Corps is an implementing partner for the CDI program. In Halmion alone, CDI Program has organized sewing, hairdressing and vehicle repair courses for forty unemployed youth.

The USAID-funded master-apprentice program helps unemployed young people to obtain electro-gas welding skills that are much needed in Kyrgyzstan's local markets.

These two-and-a-half month electro-gas welding courses were taught by Kan Professional Lyceum teachers. As a result, 16 young people have become equipped with new skills applicable to the job market. After the graduates successfully passed their exams, they received CDI Master-Apprentice and lyceum certificates.